

SAYS U. S. CAN MAKE ITSELF INDEPENDENT IN MANUFACTURES

War Will Cause People to Realize to Greater Extent the Value of Mineral Resources, Declares Secretary of the Interior Franklin K. Lane.

"A direct benefit to the United States from the European war will be its effect in making the people of this country realize to a greater extent the value of its mineral resources," said Franklin K. Lane, Secretary of the Interior, in an interview recently. "It is entirely possible to so utilize these resources and expand our industries that the label 'Made in America' will become familiar in our own and foreign markets."

"Of an importance second only to that of the food supply," said Mr. Lane, "is the supply of mineral products necessary to meet the requirements of twentieth century civilization. One of the first effects of the war has been to make us realize the interdependence of nations in the matter of food supply. Most of the countries now at war are dependent upon importation of foodstuffs, and we have cause for self-congratulation in the United States that we are able to feed ourselves. What we possibly have not so fully realized is that we are nearly as independent in the possession of essential mineral resources, and that the interference with manufacturing caused by interruption of the flow of importations of many necessary raw materials, may be overcome almost wholly by development of neglected resources in our own country."

"Do you mean," Mr. Lane was asked, "that the United States can make itself independent of the rest of the world in its manufactures?"

"Very largely," asserted the Secretary. "The main difficulties to be overcome are in the rearrangement of the distribution system necessary to establishing this independence. Business is established along certain well-marked channels, and usually follows the line of least resistance. It has been easier, and perhaps cheaper, to import mineral products and materials from other countries than to go to the trouble and expense of developing our own resources of the same nature. Forced to the latter course by suspension of commerce with other countries, I believe that American enterprise and energy will almost at once turn to the development of the native resources, rather than permit production to lag and supply to be diminished in any industry."

Fertilizers Are Available.

"For the maintenance of agriculture, for instance, we rely more and more largely upon mineral fertilizers. The three essential plant foods are potash, nitrogen and phosphorus, the latter used generally in the form of phosphates. We have depended, with the rest of the world, very largely upon the mines of Germany for our supply of potash salts, and war has cut off this supply, but we have large deposits of potash in a California reserve which can be immediately opened and developed if a bill now before Congress to make these supplies available is enacted. Chile holds a practical world monopoly of the most readily available nitrogen in its great nitrate beds, and not only the manufacture of agricultural fertilizers, but also of many kinds of high explosives, have been made dependent upon the Chilean supply of nitrates. If this supply should be cut off, a new supply would have to be found or manufactures and agriculture would suffer. Fortunately this new supply is at hand. We can draw nitrogen from the air and fix it with lime by the use of large and cheap electrical development, as is done at Niagara Falls and in Norway, and all that is necessary to pave the way to this electrical development is the passage by Congress of the Ferris bill now pending, which will make possible the utilization of the great unused water powers of the Western States."

"The Southern States have for years largely supplied the world with phosphates, but because of the distribution system, a large part of this supply has gone to Europe, and much of the phosphates used in the Western States have been imported across the Pacific. We have some 3,000,000 acres of phosphate lands in the West lying near the smelters from which is produced the sulphuric acid necessary to convert these phosphates into form available for plant food, and still there is no law by which these phosphate deposits can be made commercially available, although a bill which would allow of their immediate development has been favorably reported by the Public Lands committee of the House of Representatives, and is awaiting the approval of the House and Senate."

Resources Can Be Developed.

"Will these resources be developed if these laws are passed?" the Secretary was asked.

"Of course they will," he replied. "You can depend upon American enterprise and ambition to make good when it is given an opportunity. At present these deposits and resources are locked up out of use. To open them to use when the supply from other countries is cut off means to make American industries using these

materials independent of the rest of the world, and business men will not neglect the opportunity to make our industries safe from the interruptions of war we are now experiencing."

"What other industries are there now dependent upon the products of other countries, which can be made independent?" Mr. Lane was asked.

"The steel industry, for one," he replied. "Manganese is of large importance to this industry, and the largest supply of ore comes from Russia and other countries with which commerce is now paralyzed. There are large deposits in South America which have not been developed, but it is not necessary even to go so far away as that. We have great stores of manganese in this country which has been largely untouched because it is somewhat inferior in quality. To bring this home supply into use means merely adoption of methods for its purification, which are known and can be successfully used, and then we can continue making manganese steel without regard to foreign wars or sources of material. There are other international contributions, though, in the steel industry. We have depended largely upon the island of Ceylon for the graphite used in the manufacture of the crucibles in which crucible steel for edge tools and small firearms is made. Or to take another metal, European smelters, using in part Chinese and Mexican ores, have in late years furnished much of the world's supply of antimony, which is used in the manufacture of type metal, and also medicinally. War has paralyzed the production of antimony in England (at Newcastle), and prices have gone up. Antimony, however, is easily extracted from many low grade ores which we have in great quantities in at least seven States, and there is no reason why we should not make this extraction and be independent of other countries, both as to supply and price. Similar conditions hold in the case of arsenic."

"A large tonnage of ferromanganese alloys comes from Germany and England. It is only in the last ten years that we have freed ourselves from Sicily's monopolistic control of the sulphur supply. Flint pebbles are common and the supply large enough in the United States, but for such an apparently unimportant product as these, used in the fine grinding of cement and ores, we have been depending upon the chalk cliffs of England, Denmark and France. Ores and mineral freight depend almost wholly upon the tramp steamer, a carrier of foreign parentage. Now the tramp steamer has taken to cover, and all kinds of ocean freight, especially low grade freight, will be held up and its carriage almost entirely suspended during the war."

"Will this suspension mean disaster to our industries?"

"Not disaster, but inevitable interruption to some extent," replied Mr. Lane. "It means that suddenly materials upon which great industries depend, must be obtained from other sources. Importers, consumers and manufacturers are making anxious inquiries as to where they may find in the United States supplies of crude materials to replace the foreign supplies now shut off. This is the opportunity of the United States to free itself from dependence of its industries upon other countries, and business men are awakening to this fact. They look to the Government for aid in finding new sources of material with which to keep the factories open and in operation. When they have found the domestic supply and begin its use, they will not return to dependence upon the foreign supply, and thereafter good or bad times in the United States, so far as the maintenance of industries is concerned, will be more independent of foreign complications."

"What is the Government doing to aid industry in these matters?"

"All it can do under present laws," replied the Secretary. "The nation's greatest natural resources are a part of the public domain, and under the charge of the Interior Department. The annual reports on the mineral resources of the United States published by the United States Geological Survey for the last thirty years, contain not only statistics of yearly production of all commercial minerals, but also useful facts regarding the occurrence, exploitation and application in the arts and sciences of the mineral wealth of the country. The Geological Survey has been instructed to furnish upon request the addresses of producers from whom buyers can supply their wants if the mineral is produced at all in this country or information regarding the localities where reported deposits are undeveloped. In some instances large deposits remain undeveloped simply because of the fact that distance from market has given to the foreign sources of raw material with the lower ocean freights an advantage over domestic producers shipping by rail."

"What immediate effects upon min-

eral industries may be expected from the war?" Mr. Lane was asked.

"Already the copper industry has felt the injurious effect of war," he said, "and production has been curtailed. While considerable copper is consumed in the munitions of war, the constructive arts of peace furnish a far greater world market for American copper than will the destructive art of war. In the case of zinc, however, the effect of the European war is the opposite. The smelting centers of the Continent are in the zone of fighting. In Belgium, for instance, practically all the zinc smelters lie along the line of attack chosen by the German armies, while in Rhenish Prussia, Austria-Hungary, and Russian Poland the smelters are likewise located where military operations promise to be most active. It is within the limits of probability to expect a loss of a half million tons in the foreign production of zinc or nearly half the world's output, with beneficial effect upon the recent overproduction in the United States, especially as affording the opportunity to export zinc and galvanized iron products to South American countries, which market has hitherto been only in part utilized by our exporters."

Oil Producers Embarrassed.

"Fuel oil has a large use in naval warfare of today, yet the tying up of the big tank steamers on both the Atlantic and Pacific seaports is already embarrassing the oil producers of this country who depend so largely upon the export trade in all the forms of petroleum, crude and refined. On the other hand, Russia, our strongest rival in oil production, must suffer more complete and longer continued interruption of exports, which should tend to enlarge the market for our oil."

"The supply of cheap foreign barytes has prevented the development of many good deposits of that mineral, but with the consumers on the Atlantic seaboard already looking for domestic supplies, some of the Southern mines should be reopened to supplement the outputs of those already in operation."

"The closure of the European market leaves but one buyer for the radium ores of Colorado and Utah, which is decidedly to the disadvantage of the miner. Had the legislation introduced in Congress been promptly enacted the United States Government would probably have been buying these ores at this time."

"While the United States leads in coal mines," continued the Secretary, "the six European nations now at war happen to be the six next largest coal mining countries, producing together over half the world's coal. Interference with both the mining and the commerce of these nations must necessarily increase the demand for our coal at least in the neutral countries of the world. And coal is our one resource about which there need be no present anxiety. The United States is now producing 40 per cent of the world's supply of coal, and the reserves yet to be drawn upon exceed, so far as known, those of all the rest of the world combined."

Panama Canal To Help.

"It is not generally known, however, to what an extent we have been depending upon Europe, principally Germany, for many of the chemical products derivable from coal, and which we have been permitting to go to waste, in the most reckless manner. Coal tar obtained in the manufacture of coal gas, and of coke (in retort oven) is capable of producing hundreds of chemical products, but the chemical industries dependent upon coal tar as a raw material have had little development in the United States. Our imports of coal tar products in 1913 were valued at \$11,000,000 at initiating points and when they reached the ultimate consumer probably cost double that amount. If the present war continues any length of time the American consumer will have to do without aniline colors and dyes, certain drugs, and numerous other coal tar products or the American manufacturers will undertake to supply these essential commodities which have hitherto carried the label 'Made in Germany.'"

"The Panama Canal is opened in time to help us in many ways. Bolivia, for instance, is one of the greatest tin producing countries in the world, but its heaviest exportations have been to Europe, and the United States has been getting its supply of materials for the manufacture of tin plate and tin alloys from London and Liverpool. With the suspension of European industry and the opening of the canal, there is no good reason why we should not now step in, bring Bolivia's tin ore to this country and manufacture it."

"Would this change of supply mean higher prices in this country?"

"Not necessarily," replied Mr. Lane. "During the period of transition from one supply to another, and the initial development of new resources of material, cost of production might possibly be slightly enhanced, but with a new production and distribution system, wholly domestic, once established, there is no reason why prices should be higher, and no reason why fluctuations in prices in other countries should so affect our industries or prices of our products to home consumers."

Belgian trade unions will demand a nine-hour day and a minimum wage of 70 cents a day.

People laugh at the newlyweds and thereby conceal their envy.

SALMON BLOCKS COTTON RELIEF

Senators Quibble Over Absurd Things Until a Quorum is Lost

Washington, D. C., Aug. 22.—Canned salmon today blocked passage through the Senate of the bill for establishment of governmental inspection and certification of deposits in cotton warehouses.

To avoid a contest Senator Hoke Smith, in charge of the bill, accepted amendments to extend the same privileges to tobacco and naval stores warehouses. Senator Lee, of Maryland, had the bill amended to recognize State tobacco warehouse systems. Then Senator Lane, of Oregon, proposed that it be extended to canned salmon. He urged that the European war had developed the same distressing conditions for canned salmon as for cotton, tobacco and turpentine.

Senator Smith suggested there was as much reason in including Boston baked beans and Senator Martine spoke of the need of stimulating the appleack trade of New Jersey. Senator Gronna urged the extension to grain and flax seed.

As the debate progressed the bare quorum present began to dwindle. After several roll calls Vice President Marshall ruled that a quorum could not be procured and with the bill still undisposed of declared the Senate in recess until Monday.

BRAVE WOMAN'S APPEAL

Madame Grouitch, American Girl, Asks Aid for Servians.

Baltimore Sun. One of the bravest of the brave women fighting the double epidemic of cholera and typhoid which has broken out in the Servian ranks is an American, who has a warm circle of friends in Baltimore, Mme. Slako Grouitch.

Turning her personal possessions into ready money in London, whither she had gone from Switzerland after the declaration of war against Serbia, Madame Grouitch, with a little band of 10 English nurses and two surgeons, left that city on August 7 to give all her skill and untiring labor to the soldiers of her adopted country. Unable to enter Serbia by a direct route, the little party made its way to Italy, from there into Greece and thence to the rear of the Servian ranks.

Before leaving London Madame Grouitch wrote an interesting though pitiful appeal for American aid in Red Cross work in Serbia through her firm friend in this city, Attorney George Dobbin Penniman. He received the letter on Tuesday and in it she begged, as a last request before she went into the cholera-stricken district, perhaps never to return, that her former compatriots in America give something toward the alleviation of the sufferings of her adopted countrymen.

"I wish the people in America could know the need of Serbia," she wrote. "Other nations engaged in this horrible war have their efficient corps of surgeons and Red Cross nurses supplied with abundant funds, while Serbia, burdened with the debt of the two recent wars and with thousands of subjects still suffering from the crushing effect of Turkish rule, has not the means to procure doctors and nurses and medical supplies, and the suffering of her brave wounded soldiers will be terrible. No other country needs the help of big-hearted America as does Serbia, and I hope that you will help to let your people know its crying needs."

Madame Grouitch suggests that surgeons from Baltimore medical schools be asked to come to help the soldiers, saying that Serbia offers special inducement to the young surgeon because its lack of medical organization in the field would give them free rein to work out their own ideas. She asks for contributions of sheets, blankets, pillow cases and medical supplies, as well as monetary aid. She declares that winter will soon be upon the soldiers and their suffering will be greatly intensified. Money should be sent to her through London and Smith Bank, 74 Sloane street, London, she instructs, or through Mr. Penniman, of this city.

Mr. Penniman yesterday put Madame Grouitch's request for young surgeons before all the Baltimore medical schools and wrote to Miss Jane A. Delano, secretary of the Red Cross Nursing Service, asking that special nurses be dispatched to aid in Serbia.

Madame Grouitch was Miss Mabel Gordon Dunlap, daughter of the late George Dunlap, at one time superintendent of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. She was born in Clarksburg, W. Va., and met her husband, the present Secretary of War of Serbia, in Greece while she was studying there.

There comes a time when a man ceases to regard women's fashions as ridiculous or absurd. He realizes that they are merely a bit different from their predecessors.